

2/9/00

To: Wendy Dixon, EIS Program Manager
 U.S. Department of Energy
 Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
 Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office
 P.O. Box 30307, M/S 010
 North Las Vegas, NV 89036-0307

RECEIVED

FEB 15 2000

Re: YUCCA MOUNTAIN DRAFT EIS. PUBLIC COMMENT

Dear Ms. Dixon:

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Bluntly stated DOE Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management must consider compliance with National Environmental Policy Act--directly in draft EIS--and indirectly as DOE funding is provided to other entities through ARC (Appalachian Regional Commission). Other entities include Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission which consults and promotes funding to counties in the region of the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant site located in Piketon, Ohio.

As of today's date, Brown County Economic Development Director Mike Miller "announced and received" permission from the Brown County Board of Commissioners to form a special (forces???) team for economic development during calendar year 2000 in the county. I have no idea what happened to the 600 surveys mailed out on or before February 4, 2000 to selected residents of Brown County. Apparently, that plan has been "put on hold" so that "in-put" from specialists from Brown County can be included in regional planning by the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission. Compliance with letter and intent of NEPA is mandatory, how the process is implemented is COMPLIANCE OR, IN THIS CASE--LACK THEREOF.

"I think we have put together a team, which can contribute the ideas and concerns necessary for long-term strategic planning," Miller said.

Miller plans to meet regularly throughout the year with the committee. Public hearings are also planned. (THE LEDGER INDEPENDENT, "BROWN COUNTY ECONOMIC TEAM FORMED," pg. B-1, Attachment 1.)

Public meetings held without citizen/resident/

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interested party/citizen access to the decision-making process is meaningless. The order of things--as progressing--in Brown County, Ohio renders the process meaningless. The strategy seems to me to be: get the victims to ask for whatever it is that is already been decided for them anyway, and with strategic tactics convince them--for as long as possible--that somehow the ideas for the strategic plan began with them! Surveys are effective means of determining citizen opinion--re-surveys sound like more "out of bounds after the buzzer." The latest strategy sounds like changing the game already in progress--when the rules are too confining--change the rules.

This tactics are definitely tacky, and I believe, illegal. Closed door meetings have been created de-facto by the newly created "strategic team of specialists." What happened to "I want in-put from people" as Mr. Miller said just days ago? Whose two-cents worth is apparent by the interests represented on the newly formed team which certainly appears designed to get the job done.

Solutions as to what to do with DOE legacy nuclear waste and "surplus/excess materials" (produced with intent to save democracy) cannot reasonably be allowed to undo democratic process.

DOE is respectfully requested to address what is happening to the public participation process in order to implement decisions already made in closed access regional planning sessions. DOE has authority and responsibility to address what is going on here.

In closing, it appears that Mr. Miller is somewhat uniquely qualified--along with the board of commissioners--to address long term strategic planning for Brown County of Ohio. As far as I am aware--neither Mr. Miller nor the commissioners have had opportunity to review (let alone react and respond) to my comments to the agency written on February 1, 2000 and/or February 7, 2000. Could it be that considerable "feedback" has already surfaced locally from the proposal to re-survey or 600 selected recipients derived from Brown County Board of Election voter records??

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Cahall

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Attachment

Via facsimile transmission to 1-800-967-0739
on 2/9/00 at approximately 4:50 P.M. EST. and
by the U. S. Postal Service,
regular mail, postage prepaid,
on 2/11/00. 3